

## IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF MONTANA

Supreme Court Cause No. DA 09-0578

HERMAN GONZALES; FAWN LYONS;  
KEN LAUDATO; LAWRENCE  
WALKER; GARY MANSIKKA; GARY  
GALETTI; GREG WHITING; MARVIN  
KRONE; RICHARD BLACK; JIM  
KELLY; CHRIS SOUSLEY, all others  
similarly situated,

Plaintiffs and Appellees,

v.

MONTANA POWER COMPANY;  
NORTHWESTERN CORPORATION, a  
Delaware corporation; PUTMAN AND  
ASSOCIATES, INC., a Montana  
corporation; NORTHWESTERN  
ENERGY; NORTHWESTERN  
CORPORATION dba NORTHWESTERN  
CORPORATION as a reorganized debtor,  
subsequent to its plan confirmation, herein  
after referred to as NOR; and JOHN DOES  
II and III and JOHN DOES IV through XX,

Defendants and Appellants.

**ORDER STAYING BRIEFING  
SCHEDULE AS IT PERTAINS  
TO THE APPEALS OF  
NORTHWESTERN  
CORPORATION, A  
REORGANIZED DEBTOR,  
AND PUTMAN &  
ASSOCIATES, INC.**

FILED

JAN 19 2010

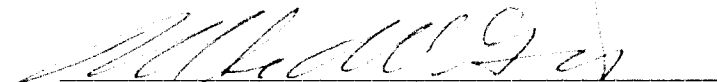
*Ed Smith*  
CLERK OF THE SUPREME COURT  
STATE OF MONTANA

THE COURT, having considered the stipulation to stay briefing of  
Plaintiffs/Appellees, Appellant Northwestern Corporation, a Reorganized Debtor, and  
Appellant Putman & Associates, Inc, and the Appellate Mediator, Tracy Axelberg's  
status report, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the current briefing schedule will be  
stayed as it pertains to the appeals of Appellant Northwestern Corporation, a

Reorganized Debtor, and Appellant Putman & Associates. Based on progress of the discussions to conclude a settlement, the briefing schedule can be reinstated either by the Mediator or upon the request of the Appellees. This Order does not change the briefing schedule for the appeal of Appellant Montana Power Company.

Done and dated this 9<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2010.

BY THE COURT:

  
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Supreme Court Justice

cc: Jason S. Ritchie/Jeanne M. Bender  
Chris J. Ragar  
Lon J. Dale  
Oliver Goe/Chad R. Vanisko/Chad Adams  
Joe Seifert